



Pre-Printing Skill Development

Below is the developmental sequence for drawing strokes. Please note that this does vary, as all children develop differently.



Activities for Skill Development:

- To teach strokes, it makes sense to draw them in context. For example, a vertical line drawn to complete train tracks, circle to make tires on car, etc. Have the child draw the form after you've modeled a few.
- Drawing within a large space, such as a wall chalkboard, dry erase board, etc. helps children learn about the movement involved in the shapes and strokes they are learning.
- Draw shapes within square boxes for using the attributes of the square as landmarks. For example, an X would go from one corner diagonally to the other. Remember to encourage drawing strokes from top to bottom – this will help when learning to write letters.
- Play games that involve diagonal relationships, such as checkers, tic tac toe or connect four to help learn about diagonal strokes. This can often be the most challenging to learn.
- Draw shapes in highlighter for the child to trace over.
- Make shapes with sticks (toothpicks, popsicle sticks, Wikki Sticks) for child to trace beside
- Create simple drawings by putting 2 or 3 shapes together to make a common object. For example, a circle and stick make a lollipop, a square and triangle make a house, etc.
- When teaching a new pre-printing stroke, follow this progression:
 - Hand over hand: make the shape together, with your hand guiding theirs.
 - Tracing from a model: have the child trace the shape after having either watched you trace it (to see the motor plan of how to do it) or with you forming the original for them to trace.
 - Trace without a model: Have the child trace over the shape without first seeing the motor plan of how to do it.
 - Copy with a model: You make the shape, then your child copies you. This again allows them to see the motor plan before copying the shape.
 - Copy without a model: Have your child copy the shape without first seeing your motor plan for forming it.

Tip: Encourage wrist extension and forearm stabilization by having your child write on a vertical surface (paper taped to wall, easel, window paints, etc.). This will encourage your child to write using finger instead of whole arm movements